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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/555,662	08/25/2000	Hartmut Hillmer	2345/117	9226

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EXAMINER

ZAHN, JEFFREY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2881

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application N .

09/555,662

Applicant(s)

HILLMER ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey N Zahn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☒ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1, 2
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Acknowledgments/Summary***

The Preliminary Amendment filed by the Applicant on 01 June 2000 has been entered as Paper No. 1 ½ and has been considered for purposes of this examination. Accordingly, Claims 1-17 have been canceled, Claims 18-36 have been added, and the Specification and Drawings amended. Currently, Claims 18-36 are pending in this Application. Claims 18-36 are rejected.

### ***Priority***

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Germany on 01 December 1997. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the said application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hazemoto et al. (JP 59204292).

Regarding Claim 28, Hazemoto et al. discloses a device for the wavelength tuning of an optoelectronic component array (Abstract Fig.) having at least two optoelectronic components (A)(see also Abstract Fig. and Abstract), the device comprising:

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a respective at least one resistance heater (B) associated with each of the at least two optoelectronic components (A's) for setting a respective characteristic wavelength (Abstract) of the respective optoelectronic component;

a common voltage or current source; (inherently the device disclosed in Hazemoto et al. includes a common ground)

a respective heater arrangement (Abstract Fig.)(B)(8) connected between each respective at least one heater and the common voltage or current source, (implied of the disclosure because connection to a power source is required to enable operation)

Hazemoto et al. does not disclose the "total resistance of each respective resistor arrangement being variable." However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hazemoto et al. to include variable resistance arrangements to vary the heat of the laser diodes and therefore the wavelength, since it has been held that the provision of adjustability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art. In re Stevens, 101 USPQ 284 (CCPA 1954).

Regarding Claims 29-36, the particular claimed features are a matter of design choice since they do not solve any particular stated problem and they claimed invention will work with alternative/equivalent features known to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, these claimed would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Regarding Claims 18-27, these claims are drawn to a method that is inherently

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disclosed in the structure as discussed above regarding Claims 28-36.


### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Seto (JP 01251686), Paoli et al. (US 5140605), Mori (JP 06097602), Hansen et al. (US5473625) and Li et al. (US 5536085).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey N Zahn whose telephone number is 703-305-3443. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul M Dzierzynski can be reached on 703-308-4822. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Jeffrey Zahn  
December 17, 2001

James W. Davie  
Primary Examiner